

The legislature is asked for nothing except the money to build and equip the hospital building.

It would be unwise economy and bad politics on the part of the economy bloc to kill this project on the general grounds that the legislature must refuse any and all requests for capital outlays.

The rejection of this extremely necessary clinic hospital would put a strong weapon into the hands of the economy bloc's enemies. It would permit them to say: "Here are men, women and children dying in the poorer counties because the legislature was too parsimonious to give them a fighting chance for life."

The *Examiner* believes that the legislature will see the wisdom of providing some capital expenditures and, among all of those proposed, none is worthier than this.—Editorial, *San Francisco Examiner*, March 28.

## LETTERS†

### Concerning Meeting of American Prison Association.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT  
CALIFORNIA STATE PRISON  
AT SAN QUENTIN

April 26, 1941.

*To the Editor:*—Enclosed you will please find a letter from James A. Johnston, Warden of Alcatraz and President of the American Prison Association.

Warden Johnston has asked me to assist in bringing this meeting to the attention of the doctors. . . .

Yours very truly,  
LEO L. STANLEY,  
Chief Surgeon.

(COPY)

THE AMERICAN PRISON ASSOCIATION

Alcatraz, California,  
April 24, 1941.

Dr. L. L. Stanley, Chief Surgeon  
California State Prison  
San Quentin, California

Dear Doctor:

Thank you very much for your letter of April 23, 1941, advising me about the California State Medical Society meeting at Del Monte, May 4-6. Your offer to put up a notice inviting the doctors to attend the American Prison Association Congress at the Fairmont Hotel, August 18-22, 1941, is very agreeable to me and I assure you that your thoughtfulness in that respect is very much appreciated.

If you deem it desirable, you may read this letter in which, in my capacity as president of the American Prison Association, I extend an invitation to all the members of the California State Medical Association to attend the sessions of the American Prison Association Congress at the Fairmont Hotel, San Francisco, August 18-22, 1941.

For the further information of your associates, may I say that the American Prison Association was organized in 1870. Its purpose is to study, develop, and constantly improve the methods for control of crime and correction of offenders. Within the membership of the organization are wardens of prisons, superintendents of reformatories, heads of juvenile agencies, medical officers of the institutions, psychiatrists, psychologists, educators, members of the judiciary, ministers, priests, social workers in or bordering on the fields of delinquency.

During the Congress there are general sessions and special sessions and discussion group meetings. The program for one day will be under the sponsorship and direction of physicians dealing generally with matters of health.

† CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE does not hold itself responsible for views expressed in articles or letters when signed by the author.

I really believe that many of the discussions would be interesting to members of the California State Medical Association and I cordially invite them to attend.

Sincerely,  
JAMES A. JOHNSTON,  
President.

### Concerning Physicians' Samples.

*To the Editor:*—We have been asked by a number of advertisers to help discourage a movement to collect physicians' samples for British Relief.

By publishing the following news item you can ingratiate your JOURNAL with these important advertisers.

Very truly yours,  
COÖPERATIVE MEDICAL ADVERTISING BUREAU.  
H. L. Sandberg, Director.

As much as we individually might be in sympathy with the "Bundles for Britain" movement, one recent phase of it hardly has our approval.

At several points in the country there has been a movement to collect the samples left by pharmaceutical detail men in physicians' offices and include them in the shipments for British Relief. This is an expensive and uncontrolled way of supplying pharmaceutical products.

Most all of the pharmaceutical manufacturers have individually donated supplies with vitamin capsules and other needed pharmaceutical products to the British Relief at no charge.

The packaging of a sample increases the cost and if these samples are collected and sent to Britain, then the purpose for which they were intended, that is, for the use of physicians, is not accomplished, and the heterogeneous material that reaches British Relief probably would have little value. Many samples left physicians would be dangerous if used indiscriminately without the advice of a physician.

In some cases individual city and county medical societies have been asked to cooperate with the collection of these samples. It is our opinion that such cooperation should be refused for the obvious reasons stated.

H. L. S.

## MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE†

By HARTLEY F. PEART, ESQ.  
San Francisco

### Vasectomy and Salpingectomy Under California Law

#### PART I\*

In recent years there has been considerable discussion pro and con, with respect to sterilization of humans. Sterilization involves social, economic, and legal problems with all of which physicians are vitally concerned. In this article we shall limit ourselves to a discussion of the legal aspects of sterilization, particularly emphasizing the duty and privileges of physicians.

It must be understood that we are not approaching the problem of human sterilization from a social point of view; that is to say, we are neither advocating sterilization nor opposing it; we are neither endeavoring to point out how it can be done with legal safety, nor are we endeavoring to discourage sterilization operations by erecting or magnifying legal obstacles. On the contrary, we shall merely endeavor to analyze those rules of law which, in our opinion, are applicable and that govern physicians who

† Editor's Note.—This department of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, presenting copy submitted by Hartley F. Peart, Esq., will contain excerpts from and syllabi of recent decisions and analyses of legal points and procedures of interest to the profession.

\* Part II will appear in next month's issue.